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Claims 9-11 are currently pending.

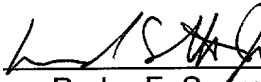
Applicant requests timely examination and allowance of pending claims 9-11.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: November 20, 2001

By:  REG # 45,118  
Pedro F. Suarez  
Reg. No. 45,895

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LAW OFFICES

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